United States Environmental Protection Agency Criminal Investigation Division Investigative Activity Report

Case Number
C 000 C 1 (002220 C2

1000-0494

Case Title:	Reporting Office:
Cooke Aquaculture Fish Farm Release	Seattle, WA, Area Office
Subject of Report:	Activity Date:
2018-05-18 Phone Interview of	May 18, 2018
Reporting Official and Date:	Approving Official and Date:
25-MAY-2018, Signed by: 29-M	MAY-2018, Approved by:
CVNIODCIC	
SYNOPSIS	
On May 18, 2018, and AUSA Seth Wilkinson conducted a p	hone interview of
<u>DETAILS</u>	
O. M. 10 2010 AUGA G 4 WYTH:	
On May 18, 2018, AUSA Seth Wilkinson and I conducted a phone interv	. After being notified of the
identities of the interviewers and the nature of the interview,	substance, provided the following
information:	71
BACKGROUND:	
DACKOROUND.	
COOKE AQUACULTURE:	
He is familiar with the Cooke Aquaculture systems in Washington State	and is familiar with the Atlantic
Salmon release which occurred in August of 2017. He first became awar	
received a call from with a request for his consultation	

There was a similar accidental release of Atlantic Salmon in the past from the net pens which are located

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near Manchester, Washington. He does not recall the amount or time frame, but the release was significant and the Atlantic Salmon once released, acted in an analogous manner. The Atlantic Salmon in that incident went both north and south from the net pens and were caught incidentally and in several other fisheries in Washington State.

GENERAL THOUGHTS ON NET PEN ATLANTIC SALMON:

This sort of release poses a real risk to the ecosystem and the native species of the Pacific Northwest. No one, even Cooke Aquaculture, knows the exact damage that could be occurring with the release of the Atlantic Salmon in August of 2017.

In his opinion, Cooke Aquaculture is acting as "business as usual" unless someone can definitively prove that there is a negative impact to Pacific Northwest Salmon.

- 1.) There is a wide dispersal of the Atlantic Salmon. They have been caught in Canada and several rivers in Washington State.
- 2.) The long-term survival of these fish is of great concern.

Inside of the Atlantic Salmon's stomach,

small fish bones were discovered. This tells him that the Atlantic Salmon can survive in the rivers of the Pacific Northwest.

3.) He has not heard of any direct evidence of the establishment of the Atlantic Salmon in the rivers of Washington State, only anecdotal information of some existing in the waters around the Vancouver, BC area. It will take quite a while for these fish to establish themselves and it will be a while before we know the full extent of this last release. He believes it is only a matter of time, before Atlantic Salmon figure out how to survive long enough to establish themselves in these waters.

The establishment of Atlantic Salmon in these waters would be devastating to Pacific Northwest Salmon as Pacific Northwest Salmon are already in a fragile state due to loss of habitat, climate change and other issues. Several other non-native species of animals have been introduced into the Pacific Northwest ecosystem and governments are having to deal with very large impacts of these introductions.

If Atlantic Salmon were to become established in the Pacific Northwest, they would then be in competition with native salmon populations for food, habitat and possible transfer of disease. He does not know about

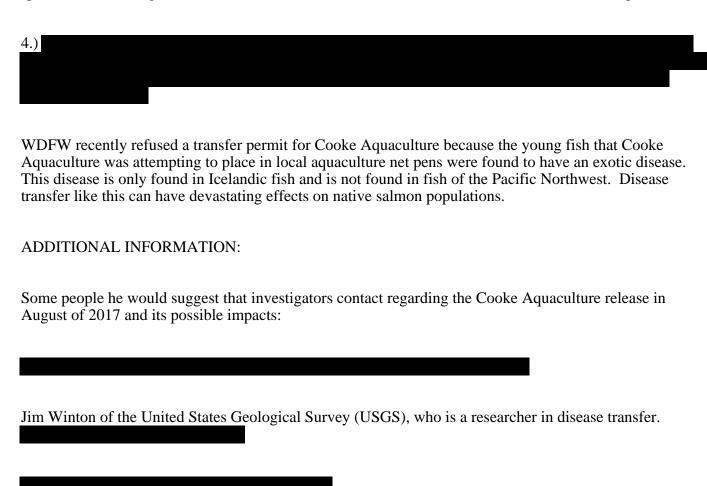
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species interbreeding, but he assumes that there must be some sort of interaction between the species.



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